

App. No. 10/757,829
Office Action Dated January 19, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 13-16 are hereby amended. Amendments of claims 13-16 are supported by page 25, line 22. The revisions do not create new issues and this Amendment should be entered

Claim 13 was rejected as being anticipated by Moller (US 4,579,658). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Moller does not disclose a method for manufacturing an acoustic matching member including filling voids of a porous member so as not to leave air bubbles with a fluid filling material whose volume after solidification is not less than a volume of the voids of the porous member, as required by claim 13. Rather, Moller discloses a method of manufacturing a filter element having air permeability (see Abstract). Since the filter element disclosed by Moller allows gas to pass therethrough, the voids cannot be considered to be filled with solidified fluid filling material so as not to leave air bubbles.

Further, the Examiner contends that Moller teaches a fluid filling material that has a volume that is greater than a volume of the voids of the porous member and is increased in volume after solidification, thus resulting in the fluid filling material occupying the top and bottom surface of the porous member in addition to the voids. Applicants disagree with this view. Moller does not suggest a fluid filling material increasing in volume after solidification. In fact, Moller teaches that the "liquid substance is preferably of a type, which shrinks during the curing treatment" (see column 3, lines 52-53). In fact, if the liquid substance taught by Moller were to increase in volume, air permeability would be lost. Since Moller is drawn to addressing issues for venting gas from an apparatus such as a stoma bag, loss of air permeability would not allow the objective of the reference to be achieved.

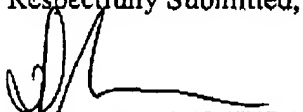
Since Moller does not disclose all the steps of the method of claim 13, the reference cannot be considered to anticipate the current invention. Favorable reconsideration of claims 13 is requested.

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Claim 17 was rejected as being unpatentable over Moller in view of Hashimoto (US 5,327,895). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claim 17 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13, from which it depends. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claim. Favorable reconsideration of claim 17 is requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Respectfully Submitted,



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